



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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July 18, 2014

TO: Poultry Superintendents

FROM: Paul Kohrs, Acting Washington State Veterinarian

SUBJECT: Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)

Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) is a highly contagious, respiratory disease of chickens caused by a herpes virus. ILT in mature chickens may result in a drop in egg production, coughing, watery eyes, swollen sinuses, and nasal discharge. ILT infections also may result in a flock death rate of 5 to 70%. In Washington State, ILT has only been reported in chickens. However, there have been published reports of ILT in peafowl, pheasants and turkeys in other states.

ILT can occur naturally (field strain) and also from vaccines (vaccine-like strains). "Vaccine-like strains" specifies that the chickens acquired ILT from the vaccine. Over the past few years, there have been an increased number of vaccine-like strains of ILT. There are 3 types of ILT vaccinations currently being used, Tissue Culture Origin (TCO) vaccine, Recombinant ILT vaccine, and Chicken Embryo Origin (CEO) vaccine. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) recommends the following to fair poultry superintendents:

1. **Restrict** poultry from showing that have been vaccinated with the CEO vaccine or have been infected with ILT in the past 24 months. The CEO vaccine has been shown to cause a vaccine-like strain of ILT. Poultry infected with the field strain or the vaccine-like strain of ILT can shed the virus when stressed, resulting in other birds becoming infected.
2. **Restrict** poultry from showing that have been vaccinated with the TCO vaccine in the past 30 days. Birds that were recently vaccinated with the TCO vaccine can infect non-vaccinated birds with ILT.
3. **If owners choose to vaccinate their birds for ILT, WSDA recommends that they use the TCO ILT vaccine.**
4. As a reminder, per the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 16.36.082, it is unlawful for any person with an animal having any contagious, communicable, or infectious disease to knowingly stable the animal or allow the animal to be stabled in any barn with other animals without notifying the other owners.
5. Exhibitors should be reminded that when they return home from the fair, birds that attended the fair should be separated from other birds for 30 days, and examined for signs of illness.

If you have sick birds after returning from the fair or other questions, please contact Dr. Lyndon Badcoe at (360)725-5763 or lbadcoe@agr.wa.gov, or contact your local veterinarian.